

STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT**
Division of Early Development

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March 17, 2000

Les Johnson, Director
Food Distribution Division
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive, #503
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Alaska is extremely pleased with a number of the proposals the USDA has identified in the Business Process Re-engineering 2000 Project. School districts in Alaska are very excited about the possibility of being able to obtain product from nationally approved processors directly from their distributors.

In addition, the concept of being able to order commodity products via the Internet is extremely appealing to the State and Alaska School Districts. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has moved in this direction with a number of programs within the Department enabling schools to complete forms on line. Technology is a high priority in this State and the Department. Logistics require us to be advanced in this area. This is such an important issue to the State that I am sending a programmer to attend the ACDA National Conference in Columbus, Ohio March 25 – 29, 2000. I am sorry I too will not be able to attend.

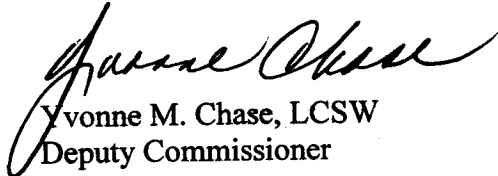
It is my belief that Alaska would be a great State to pilot a computer system that permits the transmission of food ordering data to flow between USDA, states, schools and industry partners. There are forty-seven (47) school districts statewide that participate in the Commodity Program. Because of our small size and the advancement of technology in this state, Alaska would be an ideal candidate and we would be delighted to be considered for this project.



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Thank you for your time and consideration to this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Yvonne M. Chase, LCSW
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Molly L. Wheeler, Project Coordinator, EED
Allan Ng, USDA WRO Administrator
Janet Allen, USDA WRO FNS Director